AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): An operating process for an active node ~~(1)~~ suitable for the processing of data packets by executing a program contained or identified in an active packet, this program being intended to control data packet processing functions, ~~characterised in that it includes the following steps~~ the operating process comprising:

> ~~a)reception of~~receiving an active packet;

> ~~b)execution of~~executing a request contained in the active packet, ~~and~~

> wherein the request is intended to configure packet processing functions;

> ~~execution of~~executing a program contained or identified in the active packet, ~~and~~

> wherein the program is intended to control data packet processing functions, and

> wherein ~~this~~ the program ~~being~~ is executed after the execution of ~~this~~ the request,

> and

> wherein said active packet is sent to a network address, either after the executing of the request contained in the active packet or after the executing of the program contained or identified in the active packet, depending on the request contained in the active packet.

2. (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that step b~~

~~includes the~~wherein the executing the request comprises putting a packet filter in place ~~of a~~

~~packet filter~~.

3. (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that step~~

~~b)~~wherein the executing the request is followed by a step for ~~the receipt~~receiving and ~~storage~~

~~of~~storing packets corresponding to the packet filter, for at least as long as ~~step c~~ the execution of

the program has not been implemented.

4. (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein

said active packet should be sent to an network address~~, this process including, after step b), a~~

~~step for sending of the active packet to said address~~after the executing of the request contained in

the active packet.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that step~~

~~b~~wherein the executing of the request contained in the active packet includes an operation for ~~the~~

a dimensioning of a packet storage queue.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the executing of the

request contained in the active packet ~~characterized in that step b)~~ includes an operation for

reading, from the active packet, ~~the~~ parameters for running the program.

8. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, <u>wherein the executing of the</u>

<u>program contained or identified in the active packet</u>characterised in that step c) includes an

operation for the downloading of a program identified in the active packet.

9. (Currently Amended) An active node (1) suitable for the processing of data packets

by executing a program contained or identified in an active packet, this program being intended

to control data packet processing functions, characterised in that it includes the<u>the active node</u>

<u>comprising</u> means for:

    a)receipt <u>receiving</u> of an active packet;

    b)execution of<u>executing</u> a request contained in the active packet, and intended to –

configure packet processing functions;

        and execution<u>executing</u> of a program contained or identified in the active packet,

        and intended to control data packet processing functions, this program being

        executed after the execution of this request<u>.</u>

        b)<u>wherein said active packet is sent to a network address, either after the</u>

        <u>executing of the request contained in the active packet or after the executing of</u>

        <u>the program contained or identified in the active packet, depending on the request</u>

        <u>contained in the active packet.</u>

10. (Currently Amended): A <u>active</u> data packet, characterised in that it includes<u>used in</u>

<u>an operating process suitable for processing the data packet by executing a program contained or</u>

<u>identified in the active packet, the active data packet comprising:</u>

—a request intended to be executed in an active node to configure packet

processing functions, before the execution of a program controlling packet

processing functions;

—and a-the program or an identifier for a-the program, this-the program being

intended to be executed at an-the active node in order to control the packet

processing functions, after the request is executed,

wherein said active data packet is sent to a network address, either after the

executing of the request contained in the active data packet or after the

executing of the program contained or identified in the active data packet,

depending on the request contained in the active data packet.

execution of the request.

11. (Currently Amended): A-The active data packet according to claim [[11]] 10, of the

IP type, in which said program or said program identifier, and said request, are placed in the

options-header of the IP packet.